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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1948

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WILLIAM AITCHISON, M.C.  
M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Fowey

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1948.

This is the first Annual Report to be presented since the coming into force on the 5th. July 1948 of the National Health Service (1946) Act, and has been compiled with some difficulty owing to the change of Medical Officers.

From the 5th. July 1948 Fowey has been included with St.Austell Urban, St.Austell Rural, Lostwithiel and Newquay Districts in No.1V. Health Area of the County of Cornwall with a Health Area Office established at 34a, Fore Street, St.Austell, for the purpose of carrying out the duties for which the County Health Authority has assumed the responsibility which include Care of Mothers and Young Children, Midwifery Service, Health Visiting Service, Home Nursing Service, Vaccination and Immunisation, County Ambulance Service, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, Domestic Help Service, Mental Health Service.

The review of the Health and Vital Statistics for 1948 is quite satisfactory. The Live Birth Rate is 17.62 compared with 17.90 per thousand for England and Wales. The Death Rate 14.79 per 1,000 compared with 10.80 for England and Wales is a little high but gives no cause for concern when one takes into consideration the fact that 50% of these deaths occurred in the age group between 70 and 90.

Thanks are due to Mr.Armstrong, the Sanitary Inspector of the Council, and his staff for their work during the year. It is also a pleasure to record our gratitude to the Members of the Public Health Committee and other Committees for their interest in and sympathetic support of Public Health work. I would also like to express thanks to Mr.Gatley, the Borough Clerk and his Department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM AITCHISON

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA - (In acres) 2,979. The District consists of the town of Fowey with a hinterland entirely rural in character. The town situated on a natural harbour at the mouth of the Fowey River has a history of many hundred years as a sea port, the export of China Clay being foremost in the activities of the port. The figures of vessels and tonnage entering the port during 1948 have again shown an increase over the previous year.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid year 1948 to be 2,099, a drop of 5 compared with the previous year.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - According to the Rate Book the number of Inhabited Houses is 698 in the whole district, the rateable value being £18,106 which represents £69. 2. 4d. for a penny rate.

From information gleaned from other sources, it appears to me that Fowey adequately maintained its reputation as a Holiday Resort during 1948, and from personal observation the town is wonderfully endowed with great natural beauty which it is our duty and pleasure to preserve to the best of our ability.

The Meteorological Report 1948 makes interesting reading.

Rainfall for the year was 35.19 inches which is slightly below the average (1912-1948) 36.66 inches.

January proved to be the wettest January since 1912 with rain on 30 consecutive days.

The rainfall from February to July inclusive was 9.08 inches which was the second lowest recorded during these six months, the exception being 1921 when the rainfall was only 5.96 inches.

The highest rainfall in a day for the year was recorded on the 27th. November being 2.23 inches.

The warmest month of the year was July with a mean day temperature of 67.4 degrees and a mean night temperature of 54.1 degrees.

The warmest day of the year was 28th. July with a temperature of 84 degrees being recorded. This was the second highest temperature recorded since 1912.

The lowest temperature recorded during the year was 22 degrees on February 22nd.

Frost was registered on 4 days, hail on 10 days, fog on 20 days, thunder on 3 days and snow on 4 days, with the heaviest fall on the 22nd. February, approximately 2 inches deep.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	2,979
Population ... ..	2,099
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	698
Rateable Value (December 1948) ... ..	£18,106
Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£69. 2. 4d.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per Thousand.	Rate England & Wales.
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate ... ..	34	19	15	17.62	17.90
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		
	<u>37</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>		

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per Thousand.	Rate England & Wales.
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate ... ..	3	2	1	1.42	0.42
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per Thousand.	Rate England & Wales.
DEATHS (All causes) ...	31	21	10	14.79	10.80

## DEATHS from Puerperal CAUSES

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ... ..	-	-	-	Nil.	6.89
Other Puerperal causes ...	-	-	-		

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per Thousand Live Births.	Rate England & Wales.
INFANT MORTALITY					
Legitimate ... ..	-	-	-	Nil.	34.00
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-	-		



# CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following is a list of the causes of death, in accordance with the International List of Causes of Death, 1938 :-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	-	-	-
7. Tuberculosis - other forms ... ..	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	-	-	-
9. Influenza ... ..	-	-	-
10. Measles ... ..	-	-	-
11. Ac.Poliomyelitis and Poliocencephalitis	-	-	-
12. Ac.Inf. Encephalitis ... ..	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesphagus (M) and Uterus (F) ...	-	-	-
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	-	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	-	-	-
16. Cancer of all other sites... ..	2	-	2
17. Diabetes ... ..	-	-	-
18. Intra. Cranial Lesions ... ..	4	1	5
19. Heart Disease ... ..	9	3	12
20. Other disorders of circulatory system	-	-	-
21. Bronchitis ... ..	1	2	3
22. Pneumonia ... ..	-	-	-
23. Other Respiratory disorders ... ..	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis ... ..	-	-	-
27. Other digestive disorders... ..	1	-	1
28. Nephritis ... ..	-	2	2
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ...	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal causes ... ..	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth ... ..	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformation and Birth Injury	-	-	-
33. Suicide ... ..	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	-	-	-
35. Other violent causes ... ..	1	-	1
36. All other causes ... ..	2	2	4
	<hr/> 21 <hr/> =====	<hr/> 10 <hr/> =====	<hr/> 31 <hr/> =====

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

1. Medical Officer of Health

William H.King, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

2. Sanitary Inspector (Part-time).

J.W.Armstrong, A.R. San.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - Facilities for Laboratory Investigation are to be had at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN - The supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Health Area Office, St.Austell, and is obtainable by Medical Practitioners for use within the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - As from the 5th. July 1948, the provision of an adequate Ambulance Service in the Fowey Borough as elsewhere in Cornwall became the responsibility of the Cornwall County Council by virtue of the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1948.

Since that date a service has been operated partly by the full-time County personnel which has, in the main, assumed responsibility for the day time work and partly by the Fowey Division of the St.John Ambulance Brigade operating largely by night and at weekends.

Thanks should be extended to the Superintendent, Officers and men of this Division for their co-operation and the efficient service they have rendered during the period under review.

NURSING IN THE HOME - Prior to the 5th. July 1948 this Service was carried out by the District Nursing Association. With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act the County Council assumed the responsibility for these duties. The take over was smooth as could be expected from an Association which had been doing such excellent work for so many years. The Service is carried out in homes by a Health Visiting Nurse and Midwife in much the same way as was done prior to the 5th. July.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - No Child Welfare Centre exists in the district. It is hoped that arrangements will be made to establish a Centre in Fowey under the National Health Scheme of the County in the very near future.

Maternity cases requiring hospital treatment have to be sent to Maternity Hospitals outside the district under the present arrangements. The distance is great and it is hoped that the Regional Hospitals Board will soon establish a Maternity Hospital in the St.Austell area.

HOSPITALS - There is a small Cottage Hospital in the Borough consisting of 13 beds and 1 cot. This Hospital like others in the country was transferred to the Regional Hospitals Board on the 5th. July 1948. To the staff we send out best wishes for the continued success of their work under the new regime.

Infectious cases which require isolation in Hospital are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Truro.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

#### WATER

The general supply is barely sufficient to meet all the demands during the year which had a very small rainfall from February to July. Ninety-five per cent of the houses enjoyed a continuous supply but the higher properties on both the low and medium level had an intermittent supply only for a four weekly period in July.

Periodical bacteriological examinations of the water supply had been carried out throughout the year. Two sources only gave a doubtful result in both of which cases each subsequent report proved to be satisfactory.

Chlorination was carried out as a routine.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main drainage of the town discharges by several outlets into the deep water channel of the River. All the outfalls appear to be satisfactory, no complaints having been received of any sewage being washed back on the various beaches. An extension of the sewer was carried out in the Lankelly Lane area to serve land open for development.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse in the town is collected twice weekly and in the Rural area once a fortnight.

#### DISINFECTION.

Concurrent and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out in homes where Infectious Disease is notified.

#### RATS AND MICE ( DESTRUCTIONS ) ACT, 1919.

During the year Rat Destruction has been carried out in all parts of the District.

#### NUISANCES

21 Nuisances were investigated and remedied as a result of informal action.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The town is well served with these. A new Convenience was erected for the visiting population at Polkerris Beach.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

The post war building programme has been carried on throughout the year. 27 Council Houses have been completed and occupied and 6 houses have been erected privately. This brings the total number of houses completed since the end of the War to 37 Council Houses and 8 private dwellings. It is hoped that the next year will see better progress in the housing of the local inhabitants as there is a very long waiting list.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MLIK.

At the end of 1948 there were on the Register 20 Milk Producers, 6 of them also being Retailers. In addition, there were 2 other Milk Retailers, the latter not being Producers.

Much work has been done by the Health Department in carrying out inspection of cowsheds but improvements have been very slow. In the case of Dairies and Milk Shops generally the standard is being gradually improved.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

There are no slaughter houses in the district. Meat is delivered by the Ministry of Food to the individual butchers of whom there are three in the town. Inspection of food shops was regularly carried out involving 38 routine visits and several special visits which were made on receipt of complaints.

#### ADULTERATION.

No action was necessary during the year under the various Acts controlling these offences.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of the following infectious diseases were received during the year.

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1,000 population	
		Fowey	England & Wales.
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	0.73
Measles	3	1.43	9.34
Chickenpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	0.47	1.73
Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	0.21
Diphtheria	-	-	0.08
Typhoid Fever	-	-	0.01
Para-Typhoid Fever	-	-	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	0.03
Whooping Cough	19	9.05	3.42
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	6.89
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Total		23	=====

Except for Whooping Cough there was very little infectious disease in the town, only 3 cases of Measles and 1 of Scarlet Fever being reported. All the cases were mild.

There were 19 cases of Whooping Cough. This rate is higher than for England and Wales but is about the same for the other districts in Cornwall.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION -

### IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO THE CHILD POPULATION.

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria up to the 31st. December 1948.

Age at 31.12.48 i.e. born in year.	Under 1 1948.	1 1947.	2 1946.	3 1945.	4 1944.	5 to 9 1939-43.	10 to 14 1934-38.	Total under 15.
Number immunised	8	20	17	6	1	7	1	60
Estimated mid-year child population 1948	<u>Children under Five.</u>			<u>Children 5 - 14</u>				388
	158			230				
Percentage	32.91			3.47				15.46

The great drop in the ravages of Diphtheria throughout the country is convincing proof of the value of immunisation and ought to convince all parents of the necessity for protecting their children against the disease.

Immunisation was carried out at the Child Welfare Centres and by the Family Doctors.

Application for immunisation may be made to a Health Visitor or to Private General Practitioners under the County Council Scheme.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### Age and Sex distributions of Cases and Deaths - 1948.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Other.		Pulmonary.		Other.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -24 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -34 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -44 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -54 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -64 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 -74 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	11	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) - in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out <b>workers'</b> premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	11	2	-

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-



